AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) A system comprising:

a subscriber profile database including electronic addresses and biographical and affinity information of subscribers to the system;

a transaction tracking service which tracks ~~responses to~~ each subscriber's registration messages; and

~~a processor~~ one or more search engines which ~~operates~~ operate the transaction tracking service and an electronic address directory; wherein, in response to a query of the electronic address directory, the ~~processor~~ search engines retrieve ~~retrieves~~ from the subscriber profile database electronic addresses of selected subscribers based on a search criterion selecting a specified biographical or affinity profile.

2. (Original) A system as in claim 1, further comprising an electronic message forwarding service allowing sending electronic messages to the electronic addresses retrieved.

3. (Original) A system as in claim 1, wherein the electronic addresses are electronic mail addresses.

4. (Original) A system as in claim 2, wherein the electronic mail forwarding service associates a sender's fee on each electronic message sent to a subscriber.

5. (Original) A system as in claim 4, wherein the subscriber classifies senders of electronic messages into a plurality of classes, and specifies a fee schedule for electronic messages according to the classes.

6. (Original) A system as in claim 5, wherein the system provides tools for

reclassifying a sender in a first class of senders to a second class of senders within the subscriber's classification.

7. (Original) A system as in claim 5, wherein the system provides tools for waiving a part of a sender's fee received for an electronic message received.

8. (Original) A system as in claim 5, wherein each electronic message is assigned a life time, and wherein upon expiration of the life time, the sender's fee is returned.

9. (Original) A system as in claim 2, wherein the electronic message forwarding service allows the subscriber to specify a number of electronic addresses according to the content of electronic messages to be received at each electronic address, the electronic message forwarding service forwarding each received electronic message to a corresponding electronic address according the content of the received electronic message.

10. (Original) A system as in claim 1, wherein the electronic addresses are verified from time to time to ensure integrity.

11. (Original) A system as in claim 1, wherein a subscriber specifies an out-of-service electronic address and a current electronic address to which electronic messages addressed to the out-of-service address are forwarded.

12. (Original) A system as in claim 11, further comprising an electronic message forwarding service allowing sending electronic messages to the electronic addresses retrieved, wherein the electronic message forwarding service verifying the out-of-service address by sending probing messages addressed to the out-of-service address from time to time to elicit a unsuccessful delivery reply.

13. (Original) A system as in claim 1, wherein the system further comprises tools

for building an online community.

14. (Original) A system as in claim 1, wherein the database further comprises information of interest to the subscribers.

15. (Original) A system as in claim 14, wherein the information of interest is classified according to a plurality of taxonomy trees, each taxonomy tree being defined according to a value of a subscriber-provided property.

16. (Original) A system as in claim 14 wherein the information of interest comprises results of searches of information resources accessible on the internet.

17. (Original) A system as in claim 16, wherein the information resources comprises web pages of the world wide web.

18. (Original) A system as in claim 17, wherein the information resources comprises affinity groups.

19. (Original) A system as in claim 15, wherein queries regarding the information of interest is retrieved, upon receipt of a query, by searching the plurality of taxonomy trees.

20. (Original) A system as in claim 15, wherein the information of interest is retrieved, upon receipt of a query in an electronic message, by forwarding the electronic message to an electronic address specified by a subscriber who advertises expertise in a subject matter of the query.

21. (Original) A system as in claim 15, wherein the information of interest includes celebrity personal information which is retrieved, upon receipt of a query in an electronic message, by forwarding the electronic message to an electronic addressed specified

by a corresponding celebrity subscriber.

22. (Original) A system as in claim 14, wherein queries to retrieved the information of interest and responses to the queries are selectively included in a frequently asked questions database.

23. (Original) A system as in claim 22, wherein the frequently asked questions database is improved by subscribers provided feedback.

24. (Previously presented) A system as in claim 1, wherein the transaction tracking service collects information regarding subject matters of the subscriber's registration messages.

25. (Original) A system as in claim 24, wherein the collected information is integrated into the subscriber profile database.

26. (Original) A system as in claim 25, further comprising an electronic message forwarding service allowing sending electronic messages to the electronic addresses retrieved, wherein the electronic message forwarding service comprises an electronic message route-through servcie.

27. (Original) A system as in claim 26, wherein the electronic route-through service retrieves electronic messages from a subscriber's public mailbox, processes the retrieved electronic messages by a subscriber-specified service, and forwards the processed electronic messages to the subscriber's private mailbox.

28. (Original) A system as in claim 27, wherein the subscriber-specified service comprises verification of identities of senders of the retrieved electronic messages.

29. (Original) A system as in claim 27, wherein the electronic route-through service periodically accesses a subscriber's mailbox to process electronic messages in the public mailbox by a subscriber-specified service.

30. (Original) A system as in claim 27, wherein the subscriber-specified service comprises verification of identities of senders of the electronic messages in the subscriber's mailbox.

31. (Original) A system as in claim 4, wherein the sender's fee levied on an electronic message for each subscriber is specified by the subscriber.

32. (Original) A system as in claim 31, further a comprises a subscriber search gateway that enables a sender (1) to search the electronic address directory to retrieve electronic addresses based on a combination of two or more of keywords, biographical, affinity information, and the sender's fees and (2) to send messages through the electronic message forwarding service messages to a portion of the electronic addresses retrieved accompanied by the sender's fees.

33. (Original) A system as in claim 32, further comprising an electronic message mailbox service for each subscriber that provides a ranking of electronic messages sent to the subscriber, and wherein the is allowed to provide a premium fee greater than the sender's fee specified by the subscriber to obtain a higher ranking than electronic messages providing the sender's fee specified by the subscriber.

34. (Original) A system as in claim 33, wherein the electronic message mailbox service allows a subscriber to specify a daily maximum limit on the number of eMail messages that is received from unsolicited sources.

35. (Original) A system as in claim 4, wherein the electronic message forwarding service sends a sender of electronic message not accompanied by a sender's fee an invoice for the sender's fee, and defers forwarding the electronic message until the invoice is paid.

36. (Original) A system as in claim 32, wherein the subscriber search gateway further enables the sender to redirect, when an electronic message sent to one of the electronic addresses retrieved is unread after a specified time period to another one of the electronic addresses retrieved.

37. (Original) A system as in claim 1, further comprising a content search gateway which enables a subscriber to search for information in one or more information resources using a query, wherein the content search gateway processes both the query and the result of the search to update affinity information of the subscriber in the subscriber profile database.

38. (Original) A system as in claim 37, wherein the content search gateway supports searching using a browser to access the world wide web.

39. (Original) A system as in claim 38, wherein the content search gateway supports searching using an eMail message.

40. (Original) A system as in claim 37, further a comprises a subscriber search gateway that enables a sender (1) to search the electronic address directory to retrieve electronic addresses based on a combination of two or more of keywords, biographical, affinity information, and the sender's fees and (2) to send messages through the electronic message forwarding service messages to a portion of the electronic addresses retrieved accompanied by the sender's fees.

41. (Original) A system as in claim 37, wherein the content search gateway

includes commercial information with the result to the query that is retrieved based on both the query and the subscriber's affinity information in the subscriber profile database.

42. (Original) A system as in claim 41, wherein the content search gateway tracks the subscriber's response to the commercial information included in the result.

43. (Original) A system as in claim 37, wherein the content search gateway provides the subscriber a search digest.

44. (Original) A system as in claim 43, wherein the search digest summarizes the results of more than one query.

45. (Original) A system as in claim 44, wherein the content search gateway enables a subscriber to select a plurality of search algorithms from a group including algorithms of different levels of sophistication, targeted spidering and content discovery, and forwarding the query to a human expert or an online community.